



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Abrams River School House - Community Hall Capital Project Grant Request

Date: March 20, 2019

VISION

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is founded on the belief that our community assets are plentiful, none more precious than its people, and that Argyle's assets possess the answers to our most difficult challenge. As such, Argyle will:

- Provide affordable traditional municipal services for our citizens.
- Engage with the business community to understand their needs and facilitate economic growth.
- Invest in innovative ways to foster growth both for community and industry
- Create an environment where our residents seek our partnership in the projects that matter most and provide the expertise to our community to ensure successful projects.
- Support and instill cultural pride and a sense of place in our communities.

Background:

The Abrams River School house structure has been in existence since the 1840's. After it ceased to become a schoolhouse, there was interest in its' preservation, and a society was formed. In 1991 the building became a Municipal heritage property. The building has since been condemned, and the society disbanded. In November of 2018 a new society was formed, and they are interested in fixing this Heritage Property (schoolhouse) for community use.

Attachments/Additional Information:

The Abrams River School house will be applying for the Municipality's Capital Grant funding of \$15,000, however the criteria in our Capital Grant funding application guideline stipulates that the organization must have been in existence for at least 5 years; which they are not. This new society is less than six months old.

Without intervention from Council, this application will be denied by staff using the criteria.

Budget and Cost Considerations:

\$15,000 Community Hall Capital Project Grant Funding

CAO's Recommendation:

Override 'Organizations Eligible for Funding' criterion that states, 'The applicant must be a not-for-profit community hall legally registered (and in good standing), for a minimum of 5 years, under the Societies Act of Nova Scotia'.

Otherwise would not recommend such a change, but since all other community halls have received funding under this program, the lack of eligibility criteria is secondary in importance. If Council is satisfied that the community is recommitted to this property, I would recommend that criteria be waived.

Suggested Motions:

Staff requires a motion from council to waive 5-year eligibility criteria in order to have application from Abrams River School House awarded.